

FALL: Sept. 20-Dec 20

Preparations				Maintenance		
Turf to Meadow	Turf to Garden		Natural/Weedy Area to Enhanced	Watering	Plant Care	Reducing Fuel Loads
Year 1: Optimal Planting/Seeding period				Irrigate during initial installation and establishment until natural precipitation is adequate.	Most native plants should be seeded/planted in the Fall for best establishment.	Plant native fire resistant & tolerant plants; succulent, low-growing, low oil/high water content & herbaceous within 10' of structures
Sod removal efforts can cease; unless you plan to install plants that will be irrigated through the summer, efforts to kill off cool-season sod can occur Fall through the end of Spring			Continue to target undesirable plants; particularly cool-season weeds			
Prepare seed bed as directed	Source and install landscape fabric/rock mulch if desired					
Install desired plants: plug, potted, or bare root (late fall)				Winterize system (by late fall) Get on vendor schedule if needed.	Consider need for protection from herbivory when installing plants	Limit connectivity of plants within 30' of structures: vertically and horizontally.
Sow fall seeds (those that require extended stratification) by hand/broadcast/drill						
Year 2: Optimal Planting/Seeding period				Irrigate during dry spells for those species requiring additional water	Encourage reseeding plants by spreading plant material/seeds and/or lightly disturbing the soil around the plant in the seed drop zone	Examine trees and shrubs for signs of stress, clean out dead twigs and other debris.
Consider replacing unsuccessful plantings; adjust location of replacement relative to observations/apparent conditions; add additional plantings if desired or needed (weed control through competition)						
Continue to target undesirable plants; particularly cool-season weeds (cheatgrass)	Check on mulch conditions and adjust as needed. Most dry-land natives prefer rock mulch, other zones may tolerate organic mulch		Continue to target undesirable plants; particularly cool-season weeds			
				Removal of supplemental water will depend on plant installation schedule, have system winterized	Leave spent plant material in place or cut back before frosts and leave material in place: adds winter interest and provides important wildlife/pollinator needs	Relocate excess fuels outside the defensible space zone : compost piles, burn piles, chipping piles

WINTER: December 20 - March 20

Preparations			Maintenance		
Turf to Meadow	Turf to Garden	Natural/Weedy Area to Enhanced	Watering	Plant Care	Reducing Fuel Loads
Can delineate area to be converted and lay out material smother lawn	Can prepare system for drip irrigation at this time if needed per planting timeline	Can deploy similar strategies as turf conversion at this time if desired/required; Identify and get to know the plants you are looking to	Adjustments to irrigation layout or system can occur at this time	Prune Shrubs & Trees; Contact an arborist for large and potentially hazardous trees; Request to keep the chips if part of your landscaping plans	Eliminate brush piles by Chipping, Composting or burning (permit may be required); or separate small piles for winter wildlife cover.
Sod can be removed mechanically if spring seeding/plugs planned; Source/reserve the plants you are planning to add in spring		Identify target areas and plan of attack (consider moisture, exposed soils, disturbance/recolonization sources, direction of seed spread, etc.)	Contact Irrigation installation vendors if necessary to get on their schedule	Vendors may have updated next season's plant selection—start doing some research. Check for Native Plant Sales : Conservation districts other non-profits- often need to order in Fall-Winter	Assemble Emergency Tote and Have Emergency Arrangements for Pets; Review Protocols
If a spring seed mix is selected (sprinkler irrigation is likely required for the first year or two depending on spp. establishment rate)	Explore landscape fabric/rock mulch and other hardscape material availability if desired Contact landscape installation vendors for hardscape installation if desired.		Observe the flow and behavior of water on your property to inform future planting or maintenance decisions	Consider protective measures for weather conditions and herbivory pressures if needed?	Create vertical fuel breaks (i.e., Limb up trees) and examine trees for broken and hazardous branches.

Discuss plans with your county conservation district . This is our least busy season!

SPRING: March 20-June 20

Preparations			Maintenance		
Turf to Meadow	Turf to Garden	Natural/Weedy Area to Enhanced	Watering	Plant Care	Reducing Fuel Loads
<p>Year 1: Kill off sod (There are several options) 1. Solarize under black plastic mulch 2. "Lasagna" layering of cardboard + woodchip *(appropriate for permanent installation in higher water-requirement zones only, would need to be removed prior to planting in desert/semi-desert dry plantings and near structures. 3. Mechanical removal (sod cutter) if planting in the spring. 4. Herbicide application (not recommended) Seek advice on product and application rate.</p>		<p>Targeted mechanical removal of undesirable trees/shrubs; those with a resprouting habit can be cut and the stump painted with herbicide</p>	<p>Irrigate during dry spells as needed for newly installed plants, or for species with a precipitation requirement greater than area average annual precipitation.</p>	<p>Cut back dead plant material if necessary; check for volunteers, can be transplanted or gifted</p>	<p>Call for a free home fire risk assessment</p>
		<p>Targeted herbicide or torching (propane) can be used during active growth before weeds go to seed</p>		<p>A number of species can be seeded or planted if irrigated (Refer to grower guides) Continue to check plant availability in the trade</p>	<p>Establish 30' defensible space around structures Create fuel breaks (i.e., mowing/brush cutting)</p>
<p>May seed/plant some species if irrigated; (Sprinkler)</p>	<p>*Irrigated plants (Drip) can be planted even if the sod is not removed; remove from around each planting ~12" radius; Do not let mulch contact base of plant</p>	<p>May plant some varieties of warm season spp./shrubs if supplementally irrigated; (Drip)</p>	<p>Year 2: Most plants will require 2 full seasons of supplemental water. Removal of supplemental water will depend on the plant installation schedule; occasional sprinkler (meadow) or drip irrigation may be necessary depending on the plant spp., soil type, and weather trends. Continue to address early 'green-up' invasives/non-native spp.</p>		

Get your Garden Certified!

Generally, Spring is the best time to have us come out to take pictures and certify your garden. We'll go through the certification checklist with you to ensure your garden meets the criteria to get the Heritage Garden sign.

Getting your garden certified helps ensure we can continue to offer this free service. It's also a great way to inspire others and show off all the hard work you've put into your space!

SUMMER: June 20-Sept. 20

Preparations			Maintenance		
Turf to Meadow	Turf to Garden	Natural/Weedy Area to Enhanced	Watering	Plant Care	Reducing Fuel Loads
Year 1: Continue sod removal actions unless removed mechanically for spring planting* Keep areas clear of weed encroachment		Continue targeted eradication of weedy and undesirable species.	Irrigate per recommendation for each plant (2x /week for 15 min. via drip)	Plan or prepare new planting areas	Keep vegetation near the home "lean, clean and green"
			Same frequency as above but volume varies by plant:	Vendors may have updated this season's plant selection—start doing some research	Keep flammable materials /debris away from structures: check your roof, gutters, deck
Year 2: Watch plantings for sun/heat stress, provide localized shading if necessary, note competition pressures, thin if needed.			<10" - only if needed	Enjoy your blooms, note pollinators: Bees, Birds and Butterflies and others	Avoid using tools which can produce a spark, watch IFP levels https://www.dnr.wa.gov/ifpl
			10-15" – 16 oz max		
			15-20" – 32 oz max		
			20-30" – 48 oz max		
			>30" – 64 oz (or more)		

Questions? We're happy to help!

<https://www.hgcd.info/>

Follow us on Facebook @ The Heritage Garden Program for more gardening inspiration.

